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Sec. Prelim. Amdt. dated October 22, 2004

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following on page 1 of the specification before the subheading, "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/414,954, filed April 16, 2003, which is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 9/331,948, filed July 7, 1999 (now U.S. Patent 6,551,801), which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 national stage filing of PCT/JP97/04784, filed December 24, 1997, and a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/048,458, filed February 6, 2002, which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 national stage filing of PCT/EP00/07600, filed August 4, 2000, and a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09,701,121, filed November 20, 2000, which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 national stage filing of PCT/IB99/00866, filed May 14, 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.